

You and Your Organization Can Help Arizona's Kids!

If I had a message for anyone who is even interested in being a foster or adoptive parent it would be to do it. What a great legacy. To know that you raised a child that might be a world leader tomorrow.... A lot of the kids we have now in the system have lived through things that you and I can never ever even understand and all it takes is for you to reach out your hand and say, Hey – I'm here for you.

– Arizona foster and adoptive parent

Become a foster or adoptive parent

Inform people in your organization:

- Post and distribute information on waiting children (such as photos, flyers, and bookmarks) at least quarterly
- Devote a bulletin board to Foster Care Month (May) or Adoption Month (November)
- Insert information on ways to help Arizona's waiting children in bulletins, folders and newsletters at least quarterly
- Host the Heart Gallery traveling display
- Encourage members (verbally or via email) to consider become a foster or adoptive parent or to support a child in foster care.
- Share your facility: Make available free meeting room space for informational meetings or for training future foster care and adoptive parents
- Invite a foster/adoption recruiter to speak twice a year



Host a "Drive"

- "Clothing Drive" (for kids of all ages)
- "Diaper Drive" (include formula, pull-ups, & blankets)
- "Toiletries Drive" (shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary products)
- "Toy Drive" (include books and games too!)
- "Suitcase Drive" (include duffel bags and backpacks)
- "Stuff the Bus" (school supplies and backpacks)

Be personally involved:

- Start a foster care and/or adoption support group (designate an individual to work with your local recruitment council on meeting the needs of children, foster/adoptive families and birth families)
- Support an existing project (such as "Stuff the Bus" where backpacks and school supplies are given to school-age children in foster care)
- Donate food or refreshments for parent and community meetings
- Co-sponsor, host or endorse a special event (such as a picnic, bowling or skating outing; a holiday party for neighborhood children in care; a celebratory event to honor foster parents or adoptive parents)
- Sponsor a teen living in a group home (who may need extra resources to participate in activities in addition to personal connections)
- Provide support to graduating high school youth in foster care (This could include senior expenses, graduation gifts, prom, educational support and, most important, extended community support beyond foster care)
- Sponsor a kinship family (a family who is caring for the children of another relative)



Mark, a sixth grader, can be talkative, playful and funny -- once he knows you and feels that he can trust you. When asked what he would want if he were granted a magical wish he answered that he wants to be a Ninja and know martial arts. He likes to ride his bike and scooter. Mark would like to have a family with both a mom and a dad, but he is open to being adopted by a single parent as well.

For more information and resources on becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, or about any of the organizations that support foster and adoptive children and families, please visit <http://www.azkidsneedu.gov> or call toll-free within Arizona:

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